

ABSTRACT

This invention provides a method for identifying a purchaser who purchased content from which an illegal copy was produced. A provider system encrypts a content purchased by the purchaser using a public key of a purchaser system and sends the encrypted content to the purchaser system. The purchaser system creates a digital signature of the content with the use of a private key of its own and embeds the created digital signature into the received content. When an illegal copy is found, the provider system verifies the digital signature, embedded in the illegal copy as a digital watermark, to identify the purchaser who purchased the content from which the illegal copy was produced.